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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Engineer Battalion in Pardubice

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DATE PREPARED 24 February 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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1. Superior Headquarters:

Engineer regiment in Pardubice. The regimental headquarters, located in the Masaryk Barracks, includes the following officers:
 CG: General Josef Polidor, an ardent Communist
 DOZ Officer: Maj Novak, an active Communist
 Ord Officer: Staff Capt Karel Bakerlik
 Motor Trans officer: Capt Lefeler

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2.

3. Quarters: Masaryk Barracks on the southern outskirts of Pardubice, on the western bank of the Chrudimka River.

4. Officers of the Bn:

CO: Lt Col Karel DROUSEK, a confirmed Communist
 Dpty CO: Maj Koukal

5. Organization and Strength:

Hq Co and 1st through 5th Co. The battalion was estimated at 1,000 men.

6. Armament: German submachine guns (1st through 3rd Co) and German rifles (4th and 5th Co)

7. Vehicles: about 50 trucks, 25 passenger cars, 15 motorcycles and 30 track-laying vehicles were stored in the garages of the Masaryk Barracks. Some of the track-laying vehicles were of German origin; some of them were manufactured in the Skoda Plant. The latter vehicles allegedly had six wheels on each side. Deserter did not know whether all of the vehicles mentioned belonged to the III Bn.

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8. Engineer Equipment:

Units picked up engineer equipment at the regimental storage site, which was located east of the Masaryk Barracks, on the bank of the Chrudimka River. A railroad spur led there. In addition to numerous tools, the following materiel was stored there:

- a. More than 150 two-section pontoons of sheet iron, about 10 feet wide, 4 feet high and about 50 feet long.
- b. Bridge-building equipment for about 50 infantry bridges
- c. Bridge-building equipment for 10 heavy-duty tank bridges
- d. More than 40 boats with outboard motors, each boat having a capacity of 8 to 14 men
- e. About 50 pneumatic rafts (German)
- f. About 100 three-man boats (German)
- g. 18 to 20 cranes, either 28 to 30 feet or 16 to 20 feet high.

9. Training:

Infantry training and bridge-building practice. Practice bridges were thrown across the 60 to 65-foot wide Chrudimka River. The following time was required for the completion of bridges in the Summer of 1949:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| a. Pontoon bridge: | 2½ to 3 hours) | time which elapsed
between the hauling of
bridge-building
material and the com-
pletion of bridge. |
| b. Infantry bridge: | 3 hours) | |
| c. Tank bridge: | 2 days) | |

10. Other Units in Pardubice

- a. I Engr Bn, commanded by Maj Skrivanek, located in the barracks near the village of Hurka, NE of Pardubice.
- b. II Eng Bn, commanded by Maj Adolf Honzek, located in the Zamecek Barracks, undergoing railroad engineer training.
- c. Repair plant, located east of the Masaryk Barracks, between the barracks and the engineer equipment storage site; operated by about 150 soldiers of the engineer regiment and about 200 civilians, the repair plant manufactured rail vehicles for railroad engineers and repaired or converted German tanks and other track-laying vehicles.

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Comment:

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the reported engineer battalion is identified as a component unit of the 1st "Bachmacky" RR Eng Regt, which had been commanded by Lt Col Polidor in 1948. The report again mentions Polidor as regimental commander, now holding the rank of general.

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[redacted] the 1st AI Engr
regt was allegedly converted into a brigade, including railroad
engineer units and engineer units proper.

The data on the organization of the III Engr Bn is given credence.
However, the figures on the engineer equipment of the regiment
and the strength of the battalion are believed to be too high.

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